

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(original) A device for rotation of disc-shaped elements of different diameter, in particular matrices for manufacturing audio and video discs, which device comprises a chuck which is rotatable by means of a motor-driven spindle and in which three arms distributed evenly in the peripheral direction are pivotably mounted, the said arms having a radially outer stop element for contact with an outer peripheral edge of a disc element inserted in the chuck, and the chuck having a base plate which is connected in a rotationally fixed manner to the spindle and in which each arm is mounted rotatably via a respective pin which, via a gearwheel mounted thereon, is in engagement with a central gearwheel which is mounted rotatably in the base plate and is preloaded by means of tension spring elements towards a rotational position in which the central gearwheel tends to hold the arms and their stop elements in a pivoted-in position in the chuck, the arms being synchronously pivotable towards a pivoted-out position counter to the action of the tension spring elements in order to receive and, while centring, clamp a disc element in the chuck in order for it to be possible to subject the disc element to rapid rotation therein, wherein the device further comprises a retaining mechanism which is configured to lock the rotation of the central gearwheel relative to the base plate when a predetermined speed of the chuck is reached.

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2.(original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the retaining mechanism comprises at least one retaining catch mounted in the chuck, which catch is preloaded towards a position not engaging with the central gearwheel and is arranged so as to be brought into locking engagement with the central gearwheel when the predetermined speed is exceeded.

3.(original) A device according to Claim 2, wherein the retaining catch is configured as a pivotable two-armed lever which has a first lever arm preloaded by means of a tension spring in a direction opposite to the centrifugal force, and a second lever arm which has a dog for engagement in tooth gaps of the central gearwheel, the catch being designed so as to be pivoted with its dog into locking engagement with the central gearwheel by the centrifugal force exerted on the first lever arm of the catch, counter to the action of the said tension spring, when rotation of the chuck exceeding the predetermined speed takes place.

4.(currently amended) A device according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein three retaining catches are distributed evenly in the peripheral direction in the chuck.